

Commanding Officer's Statement on Hazing



Hazing can destroy a unit from the inside out. The Eagle, Globe, and Anchor is earned in only a few select places such as Boot Camp, Officer Candidates School, and the Naval Academy. It is the only rite of passage, period!

Section, platoon, battery, or even battalion level rituals that demean others or can be construed as hazing will not be tolerated. This command will quickly respond to any allegations of hazing and provide swift punishment to the offenders.

Hollywood movies, folklore from the "*Old Corps*", and many books build the mystique that hazing is an innate part of the dark corners of the Marine Corps and a necessary tradition to keep the Marine Corps strong. That is the furthest from the truth. Real hazing incidents mentally and physically scar victims, tear apart units, and can even cause death. Usually, hazing incidents build upon each other. Each group that condones hazing tries to best the group that came before them. Eventually, they go too far. They blame it on tradition. They blame on the need to screen members of their inner circle. In the end WE blame those offenders as being disloyal to the Marine Corps, this country's values, and to their own morality.

As I have stated in the past, we are a family and a team. We need all members of this Battalion to feel safe and secure in their surroundings while maintaining a strong desire to participate. Hazing detracts from combat readiness and must be stamped out at any early sign of danger.

The Marine Corps is a tough and demanding organization. Being a Marine or Sailor is inherently tough both mentally and physically. We don't need to unnecessarily apply more stress on individuals to make them a part of the team. They have the right, when they earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, to participate fully in this organization from day one. All members of this Battalion need to be on constant alert for those telltale signs of hazing. Watch for it when going to the field with new joins. Watch for it following promotion ceremonies.

I charge every Marine and Sailor in Nightmare to do the Right Thing, For the Right Reason, All the Time! Make this organization great, one small act at a time. You are all already a part of the Circle of Trust, there is no further need for initiation. Semper Fidelis!